

But God Lead The People About (Exodus 13:17-18)

God Interrupts Our Path

Proposition: Every child of God under the leadership of God can depend on the following three facts when God interrupts their path.

- I. God Will Lead Us Away from the War (Vs. 17)
 - A. Despite the Closeness to their Destiny (Vs. c-d)
 - B. Due to the Caliber of their Enemy (Vs. 17b, e-f)
- II. God Will Lead Us About in the Wilderness (Vs. 18a-b)
 - A. A Wilderness of Dependence (Vs. 18a-b)
 - B. A Wilderness of Domination (Vs. 18a-b)
 - C. A Wilderness of Demonstration (Vs. 18a-b)
- III. God Will Lead Us Arranged for the Way (Vs. 18c)
 - A. Arranged in Company (Vs. 18c)
 - B. Arranged for Conflict (Vs. 18c)

But God Led the People About (Exodus 13:17-18)

God interrupts our Path - Being raised up in a Baptist church all my life, I found ways to entertain myself during as a child. I used to love to look through my daddy's Bible. In the back of his Thompson Chain Bible were all kinds of archaeological pictures and really cool maps. My favorites were the maps of different Bible characters and the paths that their lives took. I would try to put my finger on the #1 and follow them all over Israel. It wasn't easy with all the twists and turns, it was confusing sometimes. I heard a preacher say one time the only guy to who had a straight line on his life was Sarah. But you look at Abraham, Samuel, Saul, David, Jesus. Don't even try the apostle Paul's life. So many turns and stops and returns you will not know whether you are coming or going! The same is true with the path of the children of Israel in our text. Conventional wisdom says the shortest distance between two points is a straight line. Conventional wisdom and

I. God Will Lead Us Away from the Way (Vs17)

(A Way of Protection) At this point in our text the land of their inheritance, was only a few hundred miles away yet God led them

thousands of miles in the other direction

A. Despite the Closeness to Their Destiny

(17c-d) Now in vs 17 the children of Israel were only a few hundred miles from the land of their inheritance, the land of promise (Canaan land, milk + honey). And yet God leads them hundreds of miles in the opposite direction. They were so close they could almost taste it and yet God said "No". Oh how true that is for our own lives. We look a land of ease and fullness. That's what I need to be led.

B. Due to the Caliber of Their Enemies

(17b, e-f) God had the ability to look further up the road than they did. He saw that they were not ready to face the enemy. They had just come out of slavery. They were in a beaten down weakened condition, no match for the battle hardened Philistines. I am reminded of Ps 103:13-14. God knows our maturity and the strength of the enemy ahead and because he is faithful he will not test us above our ability.

(1 Cor 10:13) lest we turn back. (You may say wait a min. I'm fighting a battle now right now. Yes you maybe but you have know idea what kind of destructive enemies God has led you away from.)

II. God Will Lead Us Ahead in the Wilderness

(vs 18a-b) (A Way of Preparation) But God led. Thank God for his leading! They were led by a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. We

1)...wisdom and God's wisdom are often in conflict one with the other. God interrupted their straight line path into the promised land and led them about in the wilderness the long way about.

He does the same in our lives as well. What if your life was mapped out and we could follow your path: a lot of twists and turns right? Have you ever wondered why? Why God interrupts our path toward our desired destiny and takes us in a different direction? I believe this text answers that question. Every child of God under the leadership of God can depend on the following three facts when God interrupts their path.

2)...need to be Lord" and God says no I want you to walk in this path of difficulty and hardship. I was at a wedding the other day and a fellow quoted **Jeremiah 29:11** *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.* Every body loves that verse for a life verse, yet it was written to a people that had just been forcibly removed from their home land, relocated to a foreign land hundreds of miles away and placed into slavery and servitude. They would have said "Yea, right. Some plans."

3) **Psalms 103:13-14** Like as a father pitith his children, so the LORD pitith them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.

4)...away from time and time again in the past. What is it that the old song says: "*My Lord knows the way through the wilderness and all I have to do is follow.*"

1) Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. What does the Spirit of God use to guide the child of God? Psalms 119:105 *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.* One author wrote: *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet* to reveal the pitfalls and obstacles of the way and *a light unto my path* to make clear the by-paths to be avoided. What a full provision has been made for us! But yet he led them in the wilderness. Their were reasons for this:

2) ...realize their is a reason why Philippians 4:19 is in the Bible:

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

3) ...children of Israel erected their tents in a pattern by tribe around the tabernacle. God leads us into the wilderness to dominate us and know that we are to follow Him and his commands.

4) ...there's nothing my God cannot do." Deuteronomy 8:2-3 And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no. And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.

are led by the Spirit of God and the word of God

A. A Wilderness of Dependence (Vs 18a-b)-

These millions of Jews led by God into a desert would surely learn to depend upon Him to meet their every need. When

they were hungry they learned to look to God and he responded with manna + quail. When they were thirsty... Water from the rock.

God leads us into desert to help us realize that

B. A Wilderness of Domination (Vs 18a-b)- clt

is clear that God led them into this wilderness that he might speak w/ them. You ever took someone aside to speak with them in private. God is taking them to Mt Sinai to cut a covenant w/ them. To give them a law. To be their God!

To eliminate every aspect of their lives. Realize that tabernacle was central and children of Israel

C. A Wilderness of Demonstration (Vs 18a-b)

God led them away from the short cut to Canaan land and right to the banks of the Red Sea. The place where God would a mighty miracle and demonstrates his power. He did this time and time again in wilderness trials. The Demonstrations of His power cause us sing "my God is so great so strong and so mighty there

III. God Will Lead Us Arranges for the Way

(Vs 18c) (A Way of Provision) Notice in the latter part of vs 18 the word harnessed.

I thought that was an unusual way to

disciple a people. But this word gives insight

A. Arranged in Company (Vs18c) - this Hebrew word translates harnessed is a military term that refers to arrangement of a company of soldiers. A formation of a regiment. Many authors believed that this refers to the arrangement of the people crossing the red sea. Have you ever seen a military company march in a parade in an orderly fashion. They went all running every which way in panic. Do you know that God has provided for the arrangement of his people today, so they went be running in every direction

B. Arranged for Conflict (Vs18c) - this word also refers to an army being armed, having all the necessary equipment for an engagement. Now I know God let them away from the Battle, not because of the equipment but because of the soldier holding the equipment. Listen when you put your trust in the Lord Jesus and were brought out from the bondage of sin & death, God gave you his spirit, he is everything you need for any battle ⁽³⁾ ~~you may face~~ But you may need developing in the wilderness ⁽⁴⁾ ~~before you can~~

II. Closing - Has your path been interrupted by some unexpected turns. You'd better thank God. He knows the way that I take. The steps of a good man ⁽⁵⁾ are ordered by the Lord, my

- 1) ...gives insight into the way God prepared this people for the path they would take.

- 2) ...every direction confused and terrified. It's called the New Testament local Church. You and I, we are to march in step and be an intimidating mighty army of God! Every soldier has a place and is to be led by the word of God!

- 3) Colossians 2:10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:
- 4) ...before you confront the enemy in the promised land.
- 5) ...Lord. *My Lord knows the way through the wilderness, All I have to do is follow, Strength for today is mine all the way And all that I need for tomorrow.*